

continue, because it does nothing to rein in DOE's ever-present search for something to do, someplace to spend the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. There would be nothing to stop the extravagant, taxpayer-funded foreign excursions, or the use of tax dollars to investigate reporters and their stories, or the other wasteful spending that has become all too common at the Energy Department.

The Department would be left to operate mostly as it has in the past—free to pursue its own supposed manifest destiny through expansion, reinvention, and constantly redefining its missions. That kind of freedom has allowed DOE's budget to grow 235 percent since 1977, even in the absence of another energy crisis like the one that led to its creation.

At a time when the people are demanding a balanced budget and justification for every dollar spent by the Federal Government, can any of us in good conscience claim that business as usual at the Department of Energy is how the taxpayers ought to be served?

Mr. President, in presenting its budget to Congress, DOE's chief financial officer testified last week that the document demonstrates a new commitment to streamlining its operations. "More than ever," he said, "American citizens are holding us accountable for superior results with increasingly limited resources. The Department of Energy is meeting these expectations. We are improving our process efficiency and effectiveness."

Mr. President, whether or not DOE is meeting these expectations is a question clearly open to debate. I believe they are falling short, way short. And I am afraid that improving process efficiency and effectiveness will not ensure accountability or solve the fundamental problems that rack the Department of Energy.

President Clinton's budget feeds DOE's problems through more spending. But when will the big spenders here realize that the time-honored Washington tradition of throwing money at a problem does not make the problem go away—that it only perpetuates the status quo and aggravates the damage?

Mr. President, I believe the solution lies in less spending and ultimately, elimination of the Department of Energy. Without a specific and defined mission to guide it, the agency will remain a taxpayers boondoggle for years to come, a burden the taxpayers are no longer willing to bear.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I bring to the attention of my colleagues Burundi, a small Central African country. There are 6 million people who live in Burundi. Each week, a civil insurgency tightens its grip on this poor African nation, causing the deaths of hundreds of people. The killing frenzy in Burundi has barely touched international headlines, as it has been dwarfed by the calamities striking Israel and Bosnia. But consider the situation if it were to occur in the United States. The United States has a population of about 260 million. Sliding the scale to the figures of the United States, we would see 30,000 Americans dying a week; 1,560,000 a year. Burundi, my colleagues, is on the brink of national suicide.

The hostilities in Burundi are between the Tutsi-controlled army and Hutu rebels. The current turmoil is the fallout of the explosion of tensions between Tutsi's and Hutu's in 1993. That year, the country's first popularly elected President, a Hutu, was assassinated. In the chaotic aftermath of his death, tens of thousands of Burundians were killed, hundreds of thousands were displaced. Today, Burundi is ruled by a coalition of moderate Hutus and Tutsis who agreed to share power through the mediation of U.N. Secretary General's former special representative, Ambassador Ahmedou Abdallah. The moderates who lead this Government have tried to contain the violence. Their efforts, however, continue to be threatened by extremists on both sides.

A breakdown in Burundi could have catastrophic effects in the country, the region, and in the international community. The world witnessed at great length the tragedy that wrecked Rwanda 2 years ago. Rwanda shares the ethnic makeup of Burundi and is just barely coming to grips with the horror it endured. A collapse in Burundi could crack the fragile peace now established in Rwanda and even worse, could trigger a regional genocide. The international community cannot afford to sit back and watch another egregious slaughter.

The international community, with leadership from the United States, can help. First, we should support last Saturday's meeting of African leaders in Tunis. This meeting was brokered by former President Jimmy Carter. Second, there must be diplomatic efforts to persuade the extremists on both sides that violence is not a credible option. If violence resumes, the United States, in conjunction with its European allies, should be prepared to impose an arms embargo, block international financial transactions by Burundi's extremists and stop all trade with Burundi with the exception of humanitarian relief. And third, we, the Congress, should stand behind the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and private American voluntary and relief projects whose programs promote peace and national reconciliation.

Burundi represents a great opportunity for the world community to exercise preventative diplomacy. The United States should do its share of constructive engagement and assist in heading off a regional genocide before it is too late.

TRIBUTE TO DIANE KASEMAN

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I am proud to pay tribute today to a dear friend to me and my wife, Elizabeth Ann, Diane Kaseman. Diane is a longtime employee of the Senate Service Department, where her friendliness, dedication, and charming personality have become familiar to many Members of this body and our staffs. Unfortunately for us, she will be retiring from her position in the Service Department after an incredible 43 years of service to the U.S. Congress.

Diane Kaseman is one of those individuals who takes extreme pride in her work and who truly loves the Senate as an institution. She and her loyal canine pets have become welcome sights to the many hundreds of staff members who routinely seek assistance from the Service Department. She never fails to express genuine concern when one of us, our spouses, or our staff members is under the weather. Her kind words and thoughtful notes never fail to improve our spirits.

Diane is a Rochester, NY native, and began her Capitol Hill career as a receptionist for the late Congressman and Senator Kenneth Keating of New York. She began work on March 27, 1953. Eventually, she moved over to the Senate, where she served on the staff of former Kentucky Senator John Sherman Cooper. Since then, she has served under 11 Senate Sergeants-at-Arms, working with the service and computer facilities.

Not surprisingly, Diane has devoted much of her time over the years to volunteer and community service activities. Early on in her career, she helped establish the Senate Staff Club. Since its founding in 1954, it has sponsored a wide variety of social, civic, and philanthropic projects. She served as the organization's first treasurer. Today, it has over 3,000 members.

One of the Staff Club's major activities has been its blood donor drives, begun in 1978. Diane has been a driving force behind this campaign and has dedicated many hours of hard work and energy to see that the Senate meets its goals. My wife has worked with Diane on many of these blood drives.

In 1981, she received the Sid Yudin Award, which recognized "her dedication to the well-being of her coworkers and for the generous expenditure of her time, talent, and personal resources in the service of the congressional community." These few words are perhaps the best that can be offered to summarize her outstanding career and selfless service.

Diane Kaseman is truly a Senate institution who will be sorely missed